



Frequently Asked Questions About U.S. EPA's Voluntary Water-Efficiency Program

What is WAVE?

WAVE (Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficiency) is a non-regulatory water-efficiency partnership created and supported by U.S. EPA. WAVE's mission is to encourage commercial businesses and institutions to reduce water consumption while increasing efficiency, profitability, and competitiveness.

Why did EPA create this program?

WAVE is part of EPA's long-term effort to prevent pollution and reduce demands on the nation's water and energy resources. As supplies shrink and demands rise, competition among industrial, agricultural, and domestic users for available water is increasing. Through WAVE and other programs, EPA seeks to ensure that adequate U.S. water resources remain available to support both human and environmental needs.

Can joining WAVE actually benefit the environment?

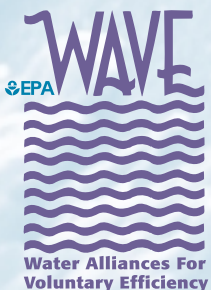
Yes. WAVE helps protect the environment and sustain wildlife habitats by reducing water use, wastewater discharges and energy use. Less wastewater and reduced consumption means less energy is needed to heat, pump, and process water. This, in turn, helps cut polluting emissions from power plants. The commercial/institutional sectors could potentially save about 1.3 billion gallons of water per day, equivalent to that used by four million homes, by installing water-efficient equipment. Electricity savings resulting from reduced water use would be about 11 million kilowatt-hours per day, enough to meet the needs of 400,000 homes.

How many types of WAVE memberships are there?

Two: Partners and Supporters. Partners include lodging establishments, office buildings, and educational institutions. Any water service company, equipment supplier/manufacturer, government agency, or water/wastewater utility may become a Supporter.

After joining, what then?

New members sign a Membership Agreement, agreeing to survey water-using equipment, and where profitable, install water-efficient upgrades within a pre-arranged time frame. Members also agree to consider using water-efficient equipment in the design of all new facilities. Program results are reported to EPA annually.



What support will I receive?

EPA is committed to helping all WAVE members publicize their water efficiency programs. Support includes nationwide public service advertising and press releases. Members also receive free water management software and technical support.

How much can I expect to save?

Water-efficiency measures, like those proposed by WAVE, can reduce water and sewer costs up to 30 percent. Significant savings in energy, chemical, and maintenance expenses are also possible. The typical payback period is less than two years.

Who else has joined WAVE?

WAVE's participants represent some of the lodging industry's most recognizable names, including Westin, Hyatt, ITT Sheraton, Outrigger, La Quinta Hotels, and Accor Economy Lodging which owns Motel 6, Studio 6 and Red Roof Inns. Collectively WAVE Lodging Partners control almost 1,900 U.S. hotel properties and more than 342,000 guest rooms. Columbia University in the City of New York and the University of Hawaii at Hilo were among the first to join WAVE as Educational Partners. (WAVE Members)

How do I Join?

For more information, please call 202 564-0623/0624. You can also write to: WAVE Program Director, U.S. EPA (4204M), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; or visit our Web site at <www.epa.gov/owm/genwave.htm>.

